THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No incidence of dumping of garbage in Indian Ocean within our territory has been noticed during the pollution monitoring programme of Department of Ocean Development. The Indian Coast Guard maintains constant survillance and vigil over the maritime zones to ensure that the marine environment is not polluted.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

"Clearance of pending Projects"

2782. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) how many projects concerning States|Central levels worth over Rs. 100 crores in each case are still pending with his Ministry to date;

(b) what is the likely cost impact on account of delay caused by the late action|approval by the concerned Ministries|Departments|Agencies and also due to changing of priorities with the frequent change of officials, Ministries etc. both at State|Central level; and

(c) what action Government have taken against such persons who are held responsible for inordinate delay and thereby loss to exchequer and country as a whole?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Only 60 proposals with investment of over Rs. 100 crores await environment and forest clearance. However criteria adopted for proposals to be referred to the Ministry is the potential for causing environmental degradation and pollution of air, water and land and not the level of Investment.

(b) and (c) Carefully established procedure is followed to avoid delays for consideration and taking decisions on the proposals referred to the Ministry. Decision is normally taken within three months of receiving all details, data and clarifications, for environmental clearance and within one month for diversion of forest land. Delays have occurred mainly due to non availability of complete information from project authorities| State Government.

Time and cost over runs arising out of cumulative action of individuals and agencies involved at the State and Central level is reviewed periodictally by the Ministry of Programme Implementation to overcome the bottlenecks.

Encouragement to Social forestry in Andhra Pradesh

2783. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state that what steps are being taken to encourage social forstry in Andhra Pradesh with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): Afforestation and tree planting activities including social forestry, are carried out in all States, including Andhra Pradesh, under various Central and State Plan Schemes like the Integrated Afforstation and Eco-Development Projects Scheme, Fuelwood and Fodder Projects Scheme, Minor Forest Produce Scheme and Aerial Seeding Scheme of the Ministry of Environment and Forests; the Integrated Wastelands Development Project Scheme and Drought Prone Areas Programme of the Ministry of Rural Development, Soil Conservation in all catchements of River Valley Scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture etc.

In addition, the World Bank assisted Rndhra Pradesh Forestry Project has been approved for implementation from the year 1994-95. The total cost of the project, which covers the